



Lesson 4b

The Resurrection of Jesus

In this lesson, we will take a more in-depth look at the heart and core of the Christian faith—the resurrection of Jesus. It is the teaching upon which the church stands or falls. In this lesson, we will answer the following questions:

What is the theological significance of the resurrection?

What is the historical evidence of the resurrection?

WHAT IS THE THEOLOGICAL SIGNIFICANCE OF THE RESURRECTION?

Please read the following passages and then answer the corresponding questions.

Romans 1:4 regarding his Son, who as to his human nature was a descendant of David,⁴ and who through the Spirit of holiness was *declared* with power *to be the Son of God* by his resurrection from the dead: Jesus Christ our Lord.

Romans 6:23 For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

I Corinthians 15:12-14, 17 But if it is preached that Christ has been raised from the dead, how can some of you say that there is no resurrection of the dead?¹³ If there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised.¹⁴ And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith.¹⁷ And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins.

John 14:19 Before long, the world will not see me anymore, but you will see me. Because I live, **you also will live**.

- 1) According to the italicized portion of these passages, what did Jesus' resurrection declare him to be?
- 2) According to the underlined portion of these passages, what do we earn for sin?

Where there is sin, there is _____.

Where there is no sin, there is no _____.

- 3) According to the double-underlined portion of these passages, what would happen if Christ has not been raised?

- 4) According to the bold portion of these passages, what does Christ's resurrection promise us?

On the basis of what we have looked at so far, how would you answer that question, “WHAT IS THE THEOLOGICAL SIGNIFICANCE OF THE RESURRECTION?”

The resurrection of Jesus is the foundation of the Christian faith. But because it is based in history, how can we know it actually took place?

WHAT IS THE HISTORICAL EVIDENCE OF THE RESURRECTION?

1. Minimal Facts Approach

1. Jesus died by crucifixion.
2. His disciples were convinced that he rose from the dead and appeared to them.
3. Paul became a Christian.
4. James, Jesus’ brother, became a Christian.
5. The tomb was empty.

2. Changes to Key, Jewish Social Structures

3. Emergence of the Church

4. The Guards at the Tomb

5. Witnessed by 500 People

6. Different Accounts of the Resurrection